million HIV-infected people who caught the virus through reused needles in hospitals and similar hygiene lapses;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that faulty blood-testing kits for HIV and Hepatitis may have been fradulently sold to Government clinics across the country, possibly resulting in people receiving transfusions of infected blood; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) India had an estimated 5.2 million HIV infected people by the end of 2005. The probable mode of transmission among the reported number of AIDS cases has been observed to be sexual mode of transmission in 85.7%, transmission from mother to child-4.3%, blood and blood products as 1.9% and Injecting drug users as 1.9%. In 6% of the cases the mode of transmission could not be determined. There is no compelling evidence that unsafe injections are a predominant mode of HIV transmission, except in injection drug users. Clinical history and epidemiological evidence indicate that sexual transmission is the major mode of transmission.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Reports were received regarding supply of substandard testing kits for Hepatitis-B and C, which were supplied to blood banks in the State of West Bengal, by a Hyderabad based company called M/S Monozyme India Ltd.. However, there are no reported cases of possibility resulting in people receiving transfussions of infected blood.

In view of the complaint received from West Bengal State AIDS Control Society, all State AIDS Control Societies have been directed to suspend proposals if any, to procure from Monoyzme India Ltd. and to strictly follow guidelines and procedures laid down. Further, the Drugs Controller General (India) has been asked to investigate into the matter and take appropriate action under rules.

## Upgrading of Virology Institute, Alapuzha

356. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that during the recent

outbreak of dengue/Chikungunya in Kerala, blood samples of patients had to be sent to Pune/Delhi for diagnosis;

(b) whether this process caused inordinate delay in identification of the decease and providing proper medication to the patients;

(c) whether Government would consider upgrading the facilities at the Alpuzha Virology Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Chikangunya and Dengue fever which are viral infections diagnosed clinically supported by lab investigations. Supportive treatment of the patients can be initiated even without confirmatory diagnosis by laboratory investigation.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has identified the Virology Institute Alapuzha as one of the institutions in the country for strengthening diagnostic facilities for dengue, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis and other viral vector borne disease. The National Institute of Virology, Pune has been asked to supply the testing kits as well as train the team from Virology Institute Aapuzha. Further, under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, all the district level laboratories and state referral laboratories are being strengthened and networked in a phased manner.

CGHS dispensaries in the country

357. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of CGHS dispensaries opened in different parts of the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of CGHS dispensaries proposed to be opened in the current year with locations thereof in the country; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned, released and spent under the scheme during this period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) During the last 3 years CGHS dispensaries were opened in the following States: